Firstly, welcome back to school and the start of a new academic year. I am delighted to be the new Headteacher of Hollymount and I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the children and parents this week. I have been made to feel so welcome by all at Hollymount and feel incredibly privileged to be part of the Hollymount team. The school is in such a strong position and I look forward to building on the many strengths.

Open Evening

I would like to invite all parents to an Open Evening on Thursday 27th September from 6pm-7pm. This gives me the opportunity to formally introduce myself and give you a little background of my career and my vision for education. There will also be a chance for a tour of the school. The PTA has kindly offered to serve refreshments and maybe even a glass of wine!

Congratulations to Mrs Oakham-Jury

I am delighted to announce that Mrs. Oakham-Jury is pregnant. I am sure many of you may have already noticed this! Whilst we are thrilled for her, we are disappointed to be losing such a wonderful teacher for a year. We have started the recruitment process and will ensure we find a replacement teacher that has all the qualities of our fantastic Hollymount teachers.

New Staff

I would like to welcome a number of new staff to the Hollymount team; Chloe Camara (Year 4 teacher); Luda Ciripita (Willow TA); Elwira Deluga (Willow LSA); Claire Edgar (cover teacher); Suja Pillai (Willow LSA); Samantha Thomson (Cover teacher); Claire Naylor (cover TA in Oak) Marlena Charuba (Year 4 TA); Liam Guifo Guifo (Year 4 LSA); and Anya Williams (Year 5 LSA).

"I have enjoyed everything, just coming back to school."  

Jack
New children

I would like to welcome Khadija (Year 1), Anoushka (Year 1), Zehra (Year 2), Isaac (Year 3), Rachel (Year 5), Charlotte (Year 4) and Sofia (Year 5) to Hollymount. I wish them a long and happy career at Hollymount.

MMF lessons

We expect MMF lessons to start next week. If your child is learning the drums, guitar, woodwind, piano or violin and they need to bring their instrument in, please do so from next week. Timetable:
- Monday AM - Drums and Piano
- Tues AM - Guitar
- Tues PM - Woodwind
- Thurs all day - Piano
- Fri AM - Violin

Year 3-6 children that want to join need to go to the MMF website www.mmf.org.uk

Bake Sale

Emily Martin (Year 6) is once again holding a bake sale after school on Monday 24th September. This is to raise money for Macmillan. Thank you Emily for showing such kindness.

Meet the teacher

Below are the dates for meet the teacher meetings. Children and siblings will be looked after by a member of staff during the 15 minute meetings. The meetings will take place at 3.30pm and will be in one of the year group classrooms. Please pick up your child as usual and wait in the playground.
- Year 1: Wednesday 19th September
- Year 2: Tuesday 18th September
- Year 3: Tuesday 11th September
- Year 4: Wednesday 12th September
- Year 5: Friday 14th September
- Year 6: Thursday 13th September

Mindfulness

This term Y5 and Y3 will be taking part in a 12 week Mindfulness programme delivered by Mindfulness trainer Anna Wille. Mindfulness involves training our attention to experience the present moment with greater curiosity and kindness. This helps us to not only appreciate what is going well but to respond more skilfully to life’s inevitable challenges. A growing body of research is showing evidence of the potential benefits of mindfulness for young people. Research studies regarding the benefits of mindfulness for young people can be found on the Mindfulness in Schools Project website - http://www.mindfulnessinschools.org

Parent talks for parents of pupils in Y3 and Y5 are being held in school next week on Wednesday 12th September at 9.00am and 7.00pm.

Friday assemblies

Friday’s Celebration assemblies will take place at 9.05am in the school hall. From next week, we are inviting parents to this assembly. Once you have dropped off your children please go back out and enter the school through the main reception if you wish to come to the assembly. Next week is a trial and if we can’t fit you all in, we may have to just have KS1 /2 parents at one time but let’s see how next week goes. If the children are awarded any certificates/awards outside of school, (e.g. swimming, karate, music, etc) please pass these on to me by Friday so that I can award them in Friday assemblies.

Staff Training

On Monday and Tuesday this week all members of staff were in school for two days of INSET. They worked hard on writing our vision for Hollymount in 2021. I was so impressed with the passion and creative thinking from all members of staff and look forward to working together to achieve this vision. I will be asking parents for their input into the vision for Hollymount in 2021 at the PTA coffee morning (Friday 21st September). As well as working on the vision, we had safeguarding training, looked at the role of the TA and thought about everyone being a leader. This involved taking a personality test which proved a rather amusing activity! I have been incredibly impressed by the enthusiasm and dedication the staff show for the school – we really are lucky to have such a wonderful staffing team.